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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/668,102

Examiner

Yicun Wu

Applicant(s)

NUNEZ, CHRIS

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9-22-03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 9-22-2003.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9-22-2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DIANE B. WITRAH
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

III. DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are presented for examination.

Allowable subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record (Gusack (U.S. Patent 6,356,897)) does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claims): a header having a plurality of header entries and a body having a plurality of body entries, wherein at least one of the plurality of header entries has a header-to-body pointer associated therewith that points to a corresponding one of the plurality of body entries, at least one of the pointed to body entries is an initial body entry in a corresponding set of the body entries related to the header-to-body pointer pointing thereto, at least one of the plurality of body entries has a body-to-record-pointer associated therewith that points to one of the plurality of records, at least one of the plurality of header entries further has a corresponding header-identifier associated

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therewith and with a corresponding set of search criteria, as claimed in claim 1.

The prior art of record (Gusack (U.S. Patent 6,356,897)) does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claims): a first index file comprising a first header having a plurality of first header entries, and a first body having a plurality of first body entries; a second index file comprising a second body having a plurality of second body entries; at least one of the first header entries has a header-to-body pointer associated therewith that points to a corresponding one of the plurality of first body entries, and a corresponding header-identifier associated therewith and with a corresponding set of search criteria, at least one of the first body entries has a body-to-body pointer associated therewith that points to a corresponding one of the plurality of second body entries, at least one of the second body entries has a corresponding body-to-record-pointer associated therewith, and a corresponding value associated with the corresponding body-to- record pointer, the body-to-record pointer pointing to a corresponding one of the records having the corresponding value associated therewith, as claimed in claim 6.

The prior art of record (Gusack (U.S. Patent 6,356,897)) does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claims):

the index file comprising a header having a plurality of header entries and a body having a plurality of body entries, at least one of the plurality of header entries having a header-to-body pointer associated therewith that points to a corresponding one of the plurality of body entries, at least one of the plurality of body entries having a body-to-record-pointer associated therewith that points to one of the records; identifying one of the plurality of header entries corresponding to the search criteria; identifying the header-to-body pointer associated with the identified header entry; accessing the body entry pointed to by the identified header-to-body pointer, the accessed body entry being the first in a set of body entries related to the identified header-to-body pointer; identifying the body entries within the set which have associated therewith body-to-record pointers pointing to records satisfying the search criteria; and accessing the records satisfying the search criteria, as claimed in claim 11.

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The prior art of record (Gusack (U.S. Patent 6,356,897)) does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claims):

identifying a pair of index files to search in response to the search query, the pair including a first index file comprising a first header and a first body, and a second index file comprising a second body, the first header having a plurality of first header entries each having a header-to-body pointer associated therewith that points to a corresponding one of a plurality of first body entries associated with the first body, the first body entries each having a body-to-body pointer associated therewith that points to a corresponding one of a plurality of second body entries associated with the second body, the second body entries each having a corresponding body-to-record-pointer associated therewith, and a corresponding value associated with the corresponding body-to-record pointer, the body-to-record pointer pointing to a corresponding one of the records having the corresponding value associated therewith; identifying one of the plurality of first header entries corresponding to the search criteria; identifying the header-to-body pointer associated with the identified first header entry; accessing the first body entry pointed to by the identified header-to-body pointer, the accessed first body entry

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being an initial first body entry in a set of first body entries related to the identified header-to-body pointer; identifying the first body entry within the set of first body entries which has associated therewith a body-to-body pointer pointing to the second body entry having a body-to-record pointer pointing to a record satisfying the search criteria; and accessing the record satisfying the search criteria, as claimed in claim 16.

Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gusack (U.S. Patent 6,356,897)

DuFresne (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,712);

Li (U.S. Patent No. 5,920,859);

Nielsen (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,046);

Yu (U.S. Patent 6,067,552).

Horowitz et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,647);

Kadlec (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,530); and

Hazlehurst et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,353).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yicun Wu whose telephone number is 703-305-4889. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday -Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Yicun Wu
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

August 5, 2004, 2004


DIANE D. MIZRAHI
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
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